

Oath Keepers trial: Jan. 6 was 'rebellion,' prosecutor says



Members of the Oath Keepers stand on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Oath Keepers trial: Jan. 6 was 'rebellion,' prosecutor says

From Front

By **ALANNA DURKIN RICH-ER, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The founder of the Oath Keepers extremist group and four associates planned an "armed rebellion" to keep President Donald Trump in power, a federal prosecutor contended Monday as the most serious case yet went to trial in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol. Stewart Rhodes and his band of extremists were prepared to go to war to stop Joe Biden from becoming president, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Nestler told jurors. The group celebrated the Capitol attack as a victory in that fight and continued their plot even after Biden's electoral victory was certified, Nestler alleged.

"Their goal was to stop, by whatever means necessary, the lawful transfer of presidential power, including by taking up arms against the United States government," the prosecutor said during his opening statement. "They concocted a plan for armed rebellion to shatter a bedrock of American democracy."

The five defendants are the first Jan. 6 defendants to stand trial on the charge of seditious conspiracy, a rare Civil War-era charge that calls for up to 20 years behind bars. The stakes are high for the Justice Department, which last secured a seditious conspiracy conviction at trial nearly 30 years ago, and intends to try two more groups on the charge later this year.

Defense attorneys accused prosecutors of cherry-picking evidence from messages and videos and said the government has no evidence there ever was any plan to attack the Capitol. Rhodes' attorney said his client will take the stand and show that the Oath Keepers had merely been preparing for orders they expected from Trump but never came.

"Stewart Rhodes meant no harm to the Capitol that



Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers, center, speaks during a rally outside the White House in Washington, June 25, 2017.

Associated Press

day. Stewart Rhodes did not have any violent intent that day," Rhodes' attorney, Phillip Linder, said. "The story the government is trying to tell you today is completely wrong."

On trial with Rhodes, of Granbury, Texas, are Kelly Meggs, leader of the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers; Kenneth Harrelson, another Florida Oath Keeper; Thomas Caldwell, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer from Virginia, and Jessica Watkins, who led an Ohio militia group. They face several other charges as well.

They are among roughly 900 people who have been charged in the attack, which temporarily halted the certification of Biden's electoral victory, sent lawmakers running for cover and left dozens of police officers injured.

In the Oath Keepers case, prosecutors will try to prove that their actions were not a spontaneous outpouring of election-fueled rage but part of a detailed, drawn-out plot to stop Biden from entering the White House. The Oath Keepers "were prepared in November, they were prepared in December and when the opportunity finally presented itself on Jan. 6, 2021, they sprang into action," Nestler said.

Rhodes began plotting to

overturn Biden's victory right after the election, Nestler said. In November 2020, Rhodes sent his followers a step-by-step plan for stopping the transfer of power based on a popular uprising that brought down Yugoslavia's president two decades earlier. As December approached, Rhodes' rhetoric became increasingly violent and desperate, Nestler said.

In messages and comments read to the jury, the Oath Keepers repeatedly warned of violence if Biden were to become president. During a December interview, Rhodes called senators "traitors" and warned that the Oath Keepers would have to "overthrow, abort or abolish Congress." He described Jan. 6 as a "hard constitutional deadline" for stopping the transfer of power.

The Oath Keepers organized training, including one session on "unconventional warfare." Before coming to Washington, they set up "quick reaction force" teams with "weapons of war" stashed at a Virginia hotel so they could get them into the capital quickly if necessary, the prosecutor said.

As Oath Keepers stormed the Capitol in helmets and other battle gear, Rhodes remained on the outside, like "a general surveying

his troops on a battlefield," Nestler said. After the attack, the elated Oath Keepers went to a Virginia restaurant to celebrate their victory, the prosecutor said. They planned to continue "that war," but "thankfully their plans were foiled," Nestler said.

In the days between the riot and Biden's inauguration, Rhodes spent more than \$17,000 on firearm parts, ammunition and other items, prosecutors say. About a week after the insurrection, Rhodes was secretly recorded saying that his "only regret is that they should have brought rifles," Nestler said.

Prosecutors showed jurors a slew of videos, including showing Meggs, Harrelson and others firing AR-15 style rifles at targets at a range. Meggs sent the video, set to rock music, to a group on Jan. 5 and declared: "We are ready!" the prosecutor said.

Among those expected to testify during the trial, which will last several weeks, are three Oath Keepers who have pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy and are cooperating with prosecutors in hopes of getting lighter sentences. They include a man who says that after arriving in Washington, Meggs told him that another Florida Oath Keeper had brought explosives in his RV.

The government's first witness was a FBI agent, who responded on Jan. 6 to help rescue senators. He described lawmakers crying, broken doors and windows and a scene that "looked like a bomb had gone off."

Defense lawyers say prosecutors have ripped the Oath Keepers' messages out of context to paint them unfairly. The Oath Keepers came to Washington to provide security at events for figures such as Trump ally Roger Stone before the president's big outdoor rally behind the White House, defense lawyers said. Rhodes' attorney described the group as a "peacekeeping" force and called his client an "extremely patriotic" man who "loves this country."

Rhodes' attorneys plan to argue that Rhodes believed Trump was going to go to invoke the Insurrection Act and call up a militia, which Rhodes had been calling on him to do to stop Biden from becoming president. Rhodes' lawyers have said he was merely lobbying the president to invoke a U.S. law.

Prosecutors say it's clear the Oath Keepers were going to act regardless of what Trump did. Nestler told jurors that Rhodes, a Yale Law School graduate, was only using the Insurrection Act as "legal cover." In one message, Rhodes wrote in December 2020 that Trump "needs to know that if he fails to act, then we will."

An attorney for Caldwell said his client is a disabled veteran who didn't even know of the Oath Keepers until November 2020. The defense lawyer, David Fischer, called Jan. 6 a "black eye" for the country, but said Caldwell merely came to Washington "on a date with his wife" and wasn't planning to go to the Capitol until Trump's speech on the Ellipse before the riot.

"Mr. Caldwell couldn't storm his way out of a paper bag," Fischer said. "I came here to clear his name." □

Supreme Court welcomes the public again, and a new justice

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court began its new term Monday with a new justice on the bench, the public back in the courtroom and a spirited debate in a case that pits environmental protections against property rights.

The new member of the court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, wasted no time engaging, asking questions throughout nearly two hours of arguments in the dispute over the nation's main anti-water pollution law, the Clean Water Act. Jackson, the court's first Black female justice, seemed to be generally aligned with the court's other liberal justices in favor of Justice Department arguments to preserve the authority of the federal government to regulate wetlands under the Clean Water Act against a business-backed challenge.

If Jackson was eager to show she was ready to participate, several conservative justices also provided a quick reminder of the balance of power on a court where they hold a 6-3 majority. They asked questions that were more skeptical of the regulation in a case that tests the reach of the law beyond rivers, lakes and streams.

One issue in the case is how far wetlands can be from a larger body of water and still be subject to regulation. Jackson said she wanted to know "why would Congress draw the coverage line between abutting wetlands and neighboring wetlands when the objective of the statute is to ensure the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters?"

Under an opinion written by retired Justice Anthony Kennedy in 2006, regulators can require permits before allowing development on properties that don't abut waterways as long as they prove a significant connection to the waterways. Kennedy, who retired in 2018, was in the courtroom to hear some conservative

justices appear to agree with the lawyer for an Idaho couple that Kennedy's opinion was vague and unworkable.

Chief Justice John Roberts was unsatisfied by Justice Department lawyer Brian Fletcher's explanation of how to translate Kennedy's opinion into practice.

"What does that mean?" Roberts asked at one point. Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch, who once was a law clerk to Kennedy, also appeared inclined to side with Chantell and Michael Sackett, who have wanted to build a home close to Priest Lake in Idaho for 16 years and won an earlier round in their legal fight at the Supreme Court.

Monday's arguments were the first time the justices were back hearing cases since issuing a landmark ruling stripping away women's constitutional protections for abortion. And for the first time in two and a half years, since the court closed in March 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic, the public was allowed inside the courtroom, although the court is continuing to provide live audio of arguments on its website. Because of the pandemic the court is still closed to the public outside of arguments. And two justices wore masks in court Monday: Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who has diabetes and has worn a mask in court consistently during the pandemic, and Justice Elena Kagan, who the court said tested negative for COVID-19 but had been exposed to someone with the virus.

A new stack of high-profile cases awaits the justices in the upcoming term. Several cases the court has agreed to hear involve race or elections or both, and the court has also agreed to hear a dispute that returns the issue of free speech and LGBTQ rights to the court.

Also hanging over the justices is some unfinished business from last term: the leak of a draft of the abortion decision seven weeks



In this image provided by the Supreme Court, from left, Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and Associate Justice Elena Kagan in the Justices' Conference Room prior to the formal investiture ceremony for Jackson at the Supreme Court in Washington, Friday, Sept. 30, 2022.

Associated Press

before it was formally announced. Chief Justice John Roberts ordered an investigation, but the court

has yet to provide an update. Jackson, for her part, has been waiting for months to fully begin her

new role since being confirmed in April and sworn in when Justice Stephen Breyer retired in June. □



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Planned Parenthood plans mobile abortion clinic in Illinois

By **JIM SALTER**
Associated Press

Planned Parenthood officials on Monday announced plans for a mobile abortion clinic—a 37-foot RV that will stay in Illinois but travel close to the borders of adjoining states that have banned the procedure since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* earlier this year.

The announcement came 100 days after the Supreme Court ruling that stripped away constitutional protections for abortions, allowing states to ban the procedure. Illinois didn't institute an abortion ban, but neighboring Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee did, along with several other states in the South and Midwest.

As a result, both abortion clinics on the Illinois side of the St. Louis region, including one operated by Planned Parenthood in Fairview Heights, have been inundated with patients. Leaders of the St. Louis Planned Parenthood office said that since June, the Fairview Heights clinic has seen a 30% increase in abortion patients a rate officials said was even higher than they anticipated. Patients from outside Missouri and Illinois increased by



Dr. Colleen McNicholas, chief medical officer at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, sits in a surgical room on April 11, 2022, at the Planned Parenthood clinic in Fairview Heights, Ill.

more than 340%.

The onslaught of patients means longer waits. Yamelsie Rodriguez, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri, said abortion appointment wait times have gone from an average of four days prior to the Supreme Court ruling to two-and-a-half weeks.

"The mobile abortion clinic is a way to reduce travel times and distances in or-

der to meet patients at the Illinois border," said Dr. Colleen McNicholas, chief medical officer for Planned Parenthood's St. Louis office. "This will make a dramatic impact on their access."

The mobile clinic will travel near to the borders of southeastern Missouri, western Kentucky and northeastern Tennessee. Rodriguez said the RV is expected to arrive this month and should be operational by

the end of the year.

The clinic will include two exam rooms, a lab and a waiting room. Initially, it will provide medication abortions up to 11 weeks of gestation. Planned Parenthood will aim to start providing surgical abortions at the clinic after the first few months.

McNicholas and Rodriguez declined to discuss safety and security measures for the mobile clinic.

Laura Echevarria, spokes-

woman for the National Right to Life Committee, which opposes abortions, called the mobile abortion clinic "another grotesque demeaning of human life." "Chemical abortions can lead to life-threatening complications," Echevarria said in a statement. "Will women recognize those complications early enough to seek treatment?"

Other efforts have begun around the country to increase abortion access.

The nonprofit Just The Pill operates a mobile clinic in Colorado that provides medication abortions. Spokeswoman Kat Mavengere said that early next year, also in Colorado, Just The Pill will operate a mobile clinic for procedural abortion. The organization also plans to expand to other areas, starting with a mobile clinic in Illinois in 2023.

In July, a California doctor proposed a floating abortion clinic in the Gulf of Mexico as a way to maintain access for people in southern states where abortion bans have been enacted. Dr. Meg Autry said the idea was to provide a clinic aboard a ship in federal waters, and out of reach of state laws. □

California braces for dry winter as Western drought drags on

By **KATHLEEN RONAYNE**
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—The past three years have been California's driest on record, a streak unlikely to break this winter, state officials said Monday.

The official water year concluded Friday, marking an end to a period that saw both record rainfall in October and the driest January-to-March period in at least a century. Scientists say such weather whiplash is likely to become more common as the planet warms. It will take more than a few winter storms to help the state dig out of drought.

"This is our new climate reality, and we must adapt,"

Karla Nemeth, director of the state Department of Water Resources, said in a statement.

Her comments came ahead of expected re-

marks Monday by state water officials about what to expect in the months ahead. The water year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, so that the rainiest winter

months are recorded together.

Snow that falls in California's mountains typically provides one-third of the state's annual water supply, but last year snow levels were far below average by the end of the winter. The Colorado River, another major source of water for Southern California, is also beset by drought, threatening its ability to supply farmers and cities around the U.S. West.

Precipitation was 76% of average for the year that just ended, and the state's reservoirs are at 69% of their historical levels, state officials said.

Most of the state is in severe or extreme drought, ac-

cording to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The worst conditions are throughout the Central Valley, the state's agricultural heartland where many of the nation's fruits, vegetables and nuts are grown.

Another dry year would mean little to no water deliveries from state supplies to farmers and cities in central and Southern California. State and local officials, meanwhile, continue to urge California's 39 million residents to save water wherever possible by ripping out grass lawns or letting them go brown, taking shorter showers and generally being more conscious about water use. □



A sign about saving water is posted on browning grass outside the state Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday, July 11, 2022.

Associated Press

Poland demands \$1.3 trillion in war damages from Germany

By **MONIKA SCISLOWSKA**

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) —

Poland's foreign minister on Monday signed an official note to Germany requesting the payment of about \$1.3 trillion in reparations for the damage incurred by occupying Nazi Germans during World War II.

Zbigniew Rau said the note will be handed to Germany's Foreign Ministry. The signing comes on the eve of Rau's meeting in Warsaw with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, who will attend a security conference.

Rau said the note expresses his view that the two sides should take action "without delay" to address the effects of Germany's 1939-45 occupation in a "lasting and complex, legally binding as well as material way." He said that would include German reparations as well as solving the issue of looted artworks, archives and bank deposits. He said Berlin should make efforts to inform German society about the "true" picture of the war and its disastrous effects on Poland.



Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock speaks during a high level Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022, at United Nations headquarters.

Associated Press

Warsaw says that payment of reparations would strengthen bilateral relations through truth and justice and would close painful chapters from the past. Germany says the matter was closed decades ago. Baerbock said in Berlin before departing for Poland that the two European neighbors and partners

have a "responsibility to preserve the trust we have built together over the past 30 years."

Baerbock stressed that "this includes that coming to terms with and remembering the immeasurable suffering that Germany brought upon the people of Poland."

"There cannot and will

not be a line drawn here," Baerbock said.

Poland's right-wing government argues that the country hasn't been fully compensated by neighboring Germany, which is now one of its major partners within the European Union. On the war's 83rd anniversary, Sept. 1, Poland's government presented an ex-

tensive report on the damages, estimating it at the \$1.3 trillion figure.

Poland's government rejects a 1953 declaration by the country's then communist leaders, under pressure from the Soviet Union, that Poland wouldn't make any further claims on Germany. Germany argues compensation was paid to Eastern Bloc nations in the years after the war, while territories that Poland lost in the east as borders were redrawn were compensated with some of Germany's prewar lands. Berlin calls the matter closed. It was Moscow that decided Poland would receive only a small fraction of the compensation.

In the 1990s Germany paid one-time compensation to former inmates of Nazi concentration camps and to victims of forced labor, including many Poles.

Despite good bilateral relations, Poland's most powerful politician, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, has recently made increasingly hostile remarks about Germany, recalling its wartime guilt and alleging that it is dominating the European Union. □

E.U., Israel hold high-level talks for first time in a decade

By **LORNE COOK**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union and Israel on Monday held high-level talks for the first time in a decade, with the Europeans pressing Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid about how to put a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians into place.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell welcomed the recent support from Lapid who took part in Monday's talks by videoconference for an end to the conflict based on an Israeli and Palestinian state living peacefully side by side.

"This is also what we want to push for. We want the resumption of a political process that can lead to a two-state solution and a comprehensive regional peace," Borrell said. "We have to explore how we can put this into practice."

"It's better to sit and discuss frankly, than to avoid any contact. Certainly we disagree. Certainly we express concern, but I think it's more positive to sit and discuss," Borrell told reporters in Brussels.

In his opening remarks at the meeting led in Brussels by Israeli Intelligence Minister Elazar Stern Borrell underlined the EU's concern "about the continued tensions and violence on the ground and the continuation of unilateral measures, such as settlement expansion, and the security issues."

It's the first time the two sides have held an "Association Council" since July 2012. Israel and the EU signed an Association Agreement governing their ties in 1995, and the pact entered force in 2000. Talks were meant to be held annually, but Israel canceled

a planned 2013 meeting over the EU's policy toward Israeli settlements. Some EU countries have also been reluctant to meet since then. Lapid welcomed the meeting.

"It is an important milestone in our improving relations. This past year has seen some vast progress in our ties and there is still so much more that we can do," he said, according to the speech released by his office.

However, there is no short-term prospect for peace. Israel's military occupation of the West Bank is now in its 55th year. The last real peace talks ended in 2009, and critics say growing Israeli settlements in the West Bank and elsewhere undermine any hopes for a two-state solution. The Palestinians seek all of the West Bank along with Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem and



European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, right, greets Israel's Minister of Intelligence Elazar Stern prior to a meeting of the EU-Israel Association Council at the EU Council building in Brussels on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

the Gaza Strip, controlled by the Palestinian militant group Hamas, for a future state.

Lapid is serving as caretaker prime minister until a Nov. 1 election, in which he is facing a tough race against former Prime Min-

ister Benjamin Netanyahu. Opinion polls indicate that even if Lapid is able to form a new government, the next parliament, like the current one, will be dominated by hard-line parties that oppose Palestinian statehood. □

Haiti reports cholera deaths for first time in 3 years

By EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Haiti's government on Sunday announced that at least eight people have died from cholera, raising concerns about a potentially fast-spreading scenario and reviving memories of an epidemic that killed nearly 10,000 people a decade ago.

The cases - the first cholera deaths reported in three years - came in a community called Dekayet in southern Port-au-Prince and in the gang-controlled seaside slum of Cite de Soleil, where thousands of people live in cramped, unsanitary conditions.

"Cholera is something that can spread very, very quickly," warned Laure Adrien, director general of Haiti's health ministry.

Food or water contaminated with the cholera bacteria can lead to severe diarrhea and dehydration that can be deadly.

The United Nations said in a statement that it is working with Haiti's government to "mount an emergency response to this potential outbreak," stressing that health teams need to be



A boy diagnosed with cholera receives treatment at a cholera center in Anse D'Hainault, Haiti, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2016.

Associated Press

guaranteed safe access to areas where cases have been reported.

The deaths come as a lack of fuel and ongoing protests shut down the availability of basic services across Haiti, including medical care and clean water, which is key to helping fight cholera and keep patients alive.

Haiti's most powerful gang

continues to control the entrance to a main fuel terminal in the capital of Port-au-Prince, leading to a lack of fuel amid soaring prices that have unleashed widespread protests that have paralyzed the country for more than two weeks.

The absence of fuel and increasing number of roadblocks have prevented water trucks from visiting

neighborhoods to provide potable water to those who can afford it. It also has prompted some companies to temporarily shut down operations.

On Sunday, Caribbean Bottling Company said it could no longer produce or distribute potable water because its diesel reserves were "completely depleted," adding that the lack

of such a vital resource would affect "all sectors of society."

Adrien said health officials were trying to visit communities where cholera has been reported, but that his agency, too, has been affected by a lack of fuel as he called on people blocking the gas terminal and organizing protests to "have a conscience."

"This is a real problem," he said of how the country has virtually been paralyzed. "We're hoping this will not spread."

Adrien noted that all those who died were unable to reach a hospital in time.

Haiti Health Minister Alex Larsen said people have a right to protest but asked Haitians to allow potable water supplies into neighborhoods that have been cut off by roadblocks and protests.

"We ask people who can afford it to add a little chlorine to the water."

Haiti's last cholera epidemic sickened more than 850,000 people in a country of more than 11 million, marking one of the world's worst outbreaks of the preventable disease in recent history. □

Russian court sets Brittney Griner appeal date for Oct. 25

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian court on Monday set Oct. 25 as the date for American basketball star Brittney Griner's appeal against her nine-year prison sentence for drug possession.

Griner, an eight-time all-star center with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was convicted Aug. 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

The Moscow region court said it will hear her appeal. Griner admitted that she had the canisters in her luggage, but testified that she had inadvertently packed them in haste and that she had no criminal intent. Her

defense team presented written statements that she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.

Her February arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington, just days

before Russia sent troops into Ukraine. At the time, Griner, recognized as one of the greatest players in WNBA history, was returning to Russia, where she played during the U.S. league's off-season.

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years, and Griner's lawyers argued after the conviction that the punishment was excessive. They said in similar cases defendants have received an average sentence of about five years, with about a third of them granted parole.

Before her conviction, the U.S. State Department declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

Reflecting the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring Griner home, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of revealing publicly in July that Washington had made a "substantial proposal" to get Griner home,

along with Paul Whelan, an American serving a 16-year sentence in Russia for espionage.

Blinken didn't elaborate, but The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported that Washington has offered to exchange Griner and Whelan for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. and once earned the nickname the "merchant of death."

The White House said it has not yet received a productive response from Russia to the offer.

Russian diplomats have refused to comment on the U.S. proposal and urged Washington to discuss the matter in confidential talks, avoiding public statements. □



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a court room after her last words, in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, on Aug. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

In the name of the government of Aruba, **Prime Minister expresses profound condolences to families who tragically lost their loved ones during weekend**



ORANJESTAD – Yesterday morning, Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes, in the name of the government of Aruba, expressed profound condolences and wished strength to families who last week and during the weekend lost their family members tragically.

At the same time, the Prime Minister urged each citizen to be more prudent in every aspect, particularly when leaving home to think that there are limits, and that each of us has to take care of each other.

Last Sunday at 10:35am, a traffic accident took place at Colorado, Aruba. Ambulance was sent with maximum urgency because in one of the cars, three people showed no signs of life and other four people were heavily wounded. The ambulance transported three children, aged 10 months, 3 years and 5 years, as well

as an older person to the hospital. And by 11:28am, Doctor De Cuba pronounced the death of the three victims at the scene, Joanne Carolina Wouters (34), Mirella Jennyfer Wouters (35), and Rendrick Wouters (2).

Also during the early hours of the morning, a person was transported to the emergency at the hospital by a group of people, as he was giving no signs of life. Signs indicate that a 24-year-old man named Daniel presumably drowned during a pool party that started Saturday night and continued in the early hours of Sunday. Doctors at the emergency room of the hospital pronounced the death.

The Prime Minister said:

"This week starts with immense pain in our hearts due to the tragic weekend we went through. This after last week, a young man of

barely 19 years old lost his life in a motorcycle accident.

"On Sunday, 4 citizens of our country suddenly lost their lives in tragic incidents in only one day. Two sisters together. One who died with her own 2-year-old baby, and together with her another sibling passed away and together leaving young children behind. A profound sadness for the families who lost three beloved family members, and there are more members of this family, in this case young children, who are fighting for their life. An enormous pain.

"From the government of Aruba, we wish the Wouters family and their friends a lot of strength during these extremely difficult and painful moments.

The tragic accident is already under investigation and I expect that soon the report will be ready, and

if there are people who need to be held responsible for their actions, justice will take its course and deal with those involved in causing this horrible accident.

"Another tragic case that shocked us was the 24-year-old young man who drowned during a pool party. This incident is also currently under investigation and I expect that soon this report will also be ready. The Government sends condolences to his family.

"It's true that the investigations that have already started, however I must say that investigation reports will not ease the immense pain of children, mother, father, grandparents and other family members.

We are now in the last three months of 2022. It is our wish that together we will get through to the next day, week and months with the

least regrettable incidents possible. We can achieve this by being more prudent in every aspect of what we do. When you are on the road, think that it's not just you on the road, there are other cars that have family members, mothers, children, grandparents aboard.

"For a small island like Aruba, to have four tragic deaths in one weekend is a very hard blow for our community. It affected me a lot, as it affected thousands of families in Aruba.

"I ask that we all join in heart and pray for the families of the victims. I wish our prayers and feelings of compassion can be a consolation to the families. Let us also pray for those who are in the hospital for their recovery. And that Mirella, Joanne, Rendrick, Daniel and Angel Gabriel may rest in peace in the arms of the Lord." □




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PALM BEACH, ARUBA – Radisson Blu Aruba, located in Palm Beach, celebrated the soft opening of its new Peruvian pop-up restaurant last week. The unique and stylish Blu Bar: A Peruvian-inspired restaurant that offers everything that you love about Peruvian fusion cuisine, but with a modern twist.

Diners can expect to find many seafood-centric dishes including popular Peruvian eats such as Ceviches and Tiraditos. Some of the highlights from the dinner menu include mouthwatering dishes such as the team's favorite: cowboy pork glazed with blackberries jam served with 'fufu', local fish on a sugar snap peas puree, NY strip with Peruvian chimichurri, and 8 hours slow-cooked beef brisket; all dishes enhanced by a modern twist on flavors and presentation. The Executive chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting you tasty appetizers or full entrée offerings.



As for libations, the beverage team built an equal innovative menu with a detailed selection of stunning wines and signature cocktails to pair with each dish.

The next hot spot in Palm Beach

The pop-up is the only spot for Peruvian dining in Palm Beach and offers both indoor dining with panoramic floor to ceiling windows, and outdoor seating with a picturesque view of the resort's luxurious pool and lush gardens. The upscale atmosphere, rich in original architectural details absolute perfect location for dining with loved ones, clients, and business associates. At night, the restaurant's chic bar is a lively place to gather with friends for cocktails and cozy vibes.

One thing must be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new, and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Radisson Blu Aruba invites locals and visitors alike to enjoy a Peruvian culinary experience they will never forget. Located in the heart of Radisson



Artwork artist Omaira Silva at the library



ORANJESTAD - The National Library of Aruba is happy to announce that the local mosaic artist Mrs. Omaira Silva will work on an art project at the library.

The library wants a beautiful garden around its main building in George Madurostraat 13 and will plant fruit plants and trees. There is also an open-air theatre, where they show movies during the fall school vacation.



Mrs. Silva will make flora and fauna designs on the library's back wall in the Hofi Joy, that will be including two cement benches.

Mrs. Silva wants the artwork to be a community project and invites all young people to help work on it during this ongoing school vacation. The library invites the youth to visit and make an appointment with the artist.

By helping on this community project, they will get the opportunity to learn how to make mosaic artwork. The artist will work on the art project during the morning. It will be a fabulous artwork and will be permanently displayed on the wall for all of the Aruban community as well as its visitors to visit and enjoy.



Mrs. Silva is known for her mural art in Aruba which are displayed at Paseo Herencia, Murals in San Nicolas for the Aruba Art Fair, Costa Linda, Eagle Beach playground and her studio in Ponton. □



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For Directions

Chabad Jewish Center Of Aruba To Commemorate Lost Loved Ones On Yom Kippur

Synagogue will hold “Yizkor” service for community during Year of Jewish Unity On Yom Kippur, the day when Jewish communities across the world unite in atonement and forgiveness, Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba will hold a Yizkor memorial service during Yom Kippur prayers.

Recited by community members who have experienced the death (G d forbid) of a parent, sibling, spouse or child, Yizkor gives space to remember one's loved ones communally on a day that emphasizes communal unity and per-

sonal growth. Rabbi Ahron Blasberg will lead Yizkor at Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba from 11:30am to 12:30pm on October 5, which is Yom Kippur morning. Services for the day begin at 10:00am. All community members who wish to attend Yizkor are welcome to join the community in remembering their loved ones. Coming on Tuesday evening, October 4 and Wednesday, October 5 until nightfall, on the 10th day after Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur is the day when G d forgives all of the Jewish people's sins, both as indi-

viduals and as a community. By the same token, Jews around the world will spend the day in prayer — atoning for their sins, thanking G d for his forgiveness and focusing on self-improvement for the year to come. Because of the day's importance, Jews focus on prayer so much that they do not eat, drink or work. Yizkor adds to the day's solemnity and brings community members together as they begin a new year. For decades, Chabad-Lubavitch, an international Jewish organization that firmly believes Jewish traditions and customs is



a birthright of every Jew and that every Jew should have access to them, has made High Holiday services available free of charge, a model that other synagogues and organizations around the world are now looking at to replicate. The Yizkor service is one of many Chabad holiday programs, which give Jews the opportunity to perform Jewish holiday rituals and remember their ancestors. “Yizkor is one of the most powerful moments of Yom Kippur,” said Rabbi Ahron Blasb. “The memorial service allows community members to make space for lost loved ones on this important day, and to remember those family members as a new year begins.” “Yizkor allows me to connect not just with my family, but also with family members who are no longer with us,” said Joseph. “Yizkor puts Yom Kippur in perspective: As we move forward in our lives, it allows us to look back and understand where we came from.” This year's community Yom Kippur services and Yizkor prayers bring added significance as Jewish communities worldwide celebrate the beginning of the year of Hakhel, a once-in-seven-years effort to organize and host Jewish gatherings focused on unity and Torah learning. The marking of this special occasion is part of the reason Chabad-Lubavitch—with more than 1,100 centers, the largest network of synagogues in the United

States—is expecting record crowds at High Holiday services, with a 15% increase in attendance expected at this year's High Holiday services. In the Temple Era, Hakhel was an event that saw the Jewish people gather in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem in the year following the Sabbatical Year. In modern times, the observance of Hakhel as a year of Jewish unity was established in 1966 by the Rebbe — Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, the most influential rabbi in modern history. Born in Ukraine 120 years ago, the Rebbe built back Jewish life there after the fall of Communism and led Judaism's global post-Holocaust renaissance. The Rebbe called for the year of Hakhel to be a time for people to come together in unity. Synagogues, Jewish institutions and individuals will host communal gatherings to encourage Jewish observance and the study of Torah. Today, the Rebbe's campaign promoting the Year of Hakhel is widely observed in all segments of the Jewish community. Other Yom Kippur programs include Kol Nidrie Tuesday October 4th 6:30pm. Neilah Wednesday October 5th 5:30pm followed by break-fast For more information about Yom Kippur visit JewishAruba.com/YomKippur. or contact Rabbi Ahron Blasberg at JewishAruba.com

CELEBRATE

HIGH HOLIDAYS

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10:00 MORNING SERVICES
12:00 YIZKOR MEMORIAL SERVICE
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6:59 YOM KIPPUR ENDS
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CHABAD ARUBA

Happy World Animal Day! Lorraine Lobacz' act of love for the Animal Shelter of Aruba



World Animal Day is a day of action recognised worldwide for animal rights as well as welfare. It is celebrated on 4 October, Francis of Assisi feast day, the animals' patron saint. The mission of this day is raising the status of animals to improve welfare standards worldwide.

Building the celebration of this day brings together the animal welfare movement, and mobilises it to become a global force in making the world that we live in a better and safer place for all animals. And on this special occasion, we want to highlight the service of love of Lorraine Lobacz and her group, who have the most beautiful tradition:

every year they do a fundraising for the Animal Shelter of Aruba.

This year, Lorraine and her group's fundraiser was a coloring contest, where they colored on canvas a beautiful image of a flamingo. "All the animals got treats and love", Lorraine said, as you can see in the pictures. We are sure the animals

at the shelter really appreciated all the love!

Next year, they plan to do coloring canvas contest again. And as an inspiration for World Animal Day, we leave you with a quote from Lorraine: "Being good to animals feels good! Go visit the shelter and bring these animals LOVE." □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 One who wheedles against
 - 40 Acid type
 - 6 "The Godfather" daughter group
 - 42 Looks after
 - 11 Suspect's story
 - 43 Exams

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
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 - 2 Portion out
 - 3 Sculpture in St. Peter's
 - 4 Presidential nickname
 - 5 Bar patron
 - 6 Where-withal
 - 7 Maximum amount
 - 8 Fluffy wrap
 - 9 Repeat
 - 10 Filled with bubbles
 - 14 Hoe target
 - 19 Entreaty
 - 22 Long skirt
 - 23 Ogles
 - 24 Door-opening phrase
 - 25 Arrive feet first
 - 26 Lowly farmer
 - 28 Try for a fly
 - 30 Some singers
 - 31 Grabs
 - 32 Vote in
 - 33 Challenges
 - 38 Break off
 - 39 Recline

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10-4

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-4

CRYPTOQUOTE

IEQKZ ZXHAIJ KEQ ATZ WTAQ
CL HYBVNIQ, CVZ CL K JQEHQI
TR JYKNN ZXHAIJ CETVIXZ
ZTIQZXQE. — DHAUQAZ DKA
ITIX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOVE CURES PEOPLE — BOTH THE ONES WHO GIVE IT AND THE ONES WHO RECEIVE IT. KARL MENNINGER

Kimberly Palmer: How to handle your medical bills

By KIMBERLY PALMER of NerdWallet

When she was 19, writer Emily Maloney found herself facing about \$50,000 in medical debt after hospital treatment for a mental health crisis. The debt followed her throughout her twenties, hurting her credit and leading to stressful calls from collection agencies.

Her experience is all too common: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau reports that about 1 in 5 U.S. households carries medical debt. People with medical debt are more likely to face anxiety, stress or depression and avoid filling prescriptions because of the cost.

The risk of "medical debt looms over every consumer and impacts their lives," says John McNamara, assistant director of consumer credit, payments and deposits markets at the CFPB. He adds that recent changes to the way medical debt is reported by credit bureaus should help consumers: Paid medical debts will no longer show up on credit reports and no new medical debt will show up until 12 months have passed (up from six months). In addition, in the first half of next year, the credit bureaus will stop reporting unpaid medical debts under \$500.

Eventually, Maloney's debt was resolved through a combination of a helpful customer service representative and exceeding her state's statute of limitations. She wrote a book, "Cost of Living," based on her experiences. She wants to assure others facing medical debt that they can take steps to reduce it.

"It takes time, but you can appeal the insurance company's decision or ask (the provider) for a discount, so it's worth a shot," she says. In other words, consumers might have more power than they think. Here are some ways to exercise that power over your medical debt.



Debra Smith sorts through her medical bills in her living room on Thursday, Oct. 7, 2021, in Spring Hill, Tenn.

Associated Press

REVIEW YOUR BILL CLOSELY

It can be tempting to shove a large bill into the trash in frustration. But Dan Weissmann, creator of "An Arm and a Leg," a podcast about the cost of health care, instead recommends checking closely for errors made by the care provider or insurance company. "It's an unfair amount of homework for us to do, because if you find an error, then you have to complain and invest your time, but some medical bills have errors," he says.

Weissmann says it's also worth checking your rights under the No Surprises Act, which went into effect in January 2022 and protects consumers from some types of unexpected medical bills.

ASK YOUR PROVIDER FOR ASSISTANCE

Many hospitals offer financial assistance to those who meet income thresholds. "If you get an amount you weren't expecting, call the hospital and say, 'Am I eligible for a discount? What is your policy on financial assistance?'" says Richard Gundling, vice president at the Healthcare Financial Management Association, an association of financial executives in the health care industry.

Hospitals often have "charity care" policies to grant a lower price or even forgive the debt altogether, but consumers may have to be aggressive in asking for them. Eligibility for the pro-

grams varies by state and hospital, but nonprofit hospitals are required to have financial assistance policies. Hospitals may also offer payment plans, so you have more time to pay. Hospitals can also connect you with financing options such as personal loans and medical credit cards, which can be helpful but also pose risks. The CFPB's McNamara warns that credit cards, for example, can accrue additional interest charges.

BE PERSISTENT AND ENLIST SUPPORT

Lorraine Coughlin, president of LMC Medical Claims Management in West Palm Beach, Florida, helps people work out medical bills with insurance companies for a living. She says the number one strategy is persistence.

"You have to make the phone call and ask questions.

Don't just make payments if you get a surprise bill," she says. Sometimes it might take an hour or more, but making that call can save you thousands of dollars, she says.

Medical billing advocates like Coughlin can do that work for you, but they typically charge a fee and a percentage of any savings. McNamara warns there are predators who call themselves billing or consumer advocates but in reality, they could take your money without providing any real assistance. □

Insider Q&A: Privacy advocate sees growing public alarm

By **MARCY GORDON**

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jeffrey Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, has advocated in Washington for privacy protection for 25 years, warning about threats to online privacy. The Associated Press spoke recently with Chester about growing public concern and official action.

Q: The Federal Trade Commission is considering crafting rules to police what it sees as harmful commercial surveillance. In Congress, privacy legislation has moved closer to passage. Do these developments reflect evolving public sentiment?

A: There's a growing public backlash over the use of our personal information by companies such as Google, Amazon, Meta and TikTok. People are aware that nearly every company they deal with collects data from and about them. That lucrative information provides the companies' immense revenues.

Q: What's behind the greater awareness and concern?

A: Helping propel action has been the series of data breaches in which sensitive information has been stolen. And parents are alarmed about data-gathering on their children. There's now greater support for legislation to deliver serious privacy protections.

Q: It has seemed that most people aren't upset over tech companies' use of their data as a commodity, given the platforms' convenience and the fact that they're free. Do you think this attitude may have been changed by health-care emerging as a data pool, through tech companies like Amazon buying healthcare companies, for example? Could health-care data put consumers



This photo provided by Jeffrey Chester, shows Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy. Associated Press

over the edge on privacy?

A: I've always believed that once the public learns how its personal health information is being grabbed by online platforms, medical services companies, drugstores and pharmaceutical firms, a backlash would result. Patients rely on the internet to communicate with doctors, research medical conditions and order drugs. Many Americans use connected devices that reveal personal health details. Also fueling concern is the series of mergers and buyouts of medical services companies by Amazon, CVS and others. □

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Kid Cudi's songs come to life in 'Entergalactic' TV feature

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Scott "Kid Cudi" Mescudi recorded the bulk of his new album, the melodic rapper wanted to visually highlight the project's songs without depending on short music videos.

The Grammy winner initially thought about turning his concept album into an anthology series, until he linked up with "black-ish" creator Kenya Barris, who suggested that Cudi go the animation route. The musician took heed and has brought his songs into colorful light in the Netflix adult-animated romantic comedy "Entergalactic" inspired by his eighth studio album of the same name. Both were released Friday.

"When you bring music and animation together, those things sometimes last forever," said Barris, who said he was immediately "blown away" after hearing one song from Cudi that focused on love. After listening to the track, the filmmaker reached out to some Netflix executives, who were looking for animation projects at the time, and brought them into the studio to listen to the song. "When you heard the song, you immediately knew it was so visceral and visual at the same time," Barris re-



Kid Cudi appears at the Los Angeles premiere of "Sonic The Hedgehog 2," on April 5, 2022. Cudi created and stars in the animated Netflix film "Entergalactic."

Associated Press

called. "You could see that this could be something special. You could see that Cudi and his music was made for this."

"Entergalactic" is a story focused on a young artist name Jabari voiced by Cudi who moves into his dream New York City apartment then bumps into his next-door neighbor, Meadow, who left him lovestruck. The television special includes Timothée Chalamet, Ty Dolla \$ign, Vanessa Hudgens, Jaden Smith, Teyana Taylor and Macaulay Culkin.

For Cudi, it was a long process selecting the best songs to tell the overall story. "We really had to sit and fine tune what we wanted as far as tone," he said. "As you can see in the show, a lot of the color palettes, the purples, the browns, the fuchsias, the orange, these are the colors that you feel and you see when you listen to the music."

Cudi said going the animation direction instead of live action gave him more freedom to "explore the abstract." The visuals and modern designs of "En-

tergalactic" are similar to "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," which won an Oscar for best animated feature in 2019.

"We were able to move and transform through Jabari's mind, taking him into space when he's riding his bike," Cudi said. "Him and Meadow were in their world, in their trance and flying around through space. This was all important to push the story, push the narrative. You can watch this and be like 'this could be live action.' But I feel like there's just no other

better way to tell the story other than animation."

Barris said they wanted to make New York into an animated character of its own. "We want you to feel the trains going across screen," he said. "We want you to feel almost getting hit by a car in New York. We want you to feel the anxiety of trying to make it when you feel like you should have made it already. Or when you feel like you've gotten over your ex, and when you find someone else, she's right there. All that stuff we kind of go through, we wanted to put that in there."

Cudi paid homage to his late friend and designer Virgil Abloh, who inspired the fashion in the animated project. Cudi said Abloh's designs played a major role in telling the story.

"It was super, super important to have his presence in there because those are his animations," he said of Abloh, who died at 41 from cancer last year. Abloh was the artistic director of Louis Vuitton menswear and founder of the popular Off-White fashion house.

Cudi's "Entergalactic" album and the television special release on Friday, which is Sept. 30, Abloh's birthday — a synchronicity that was not planned, Cudi said. □

Tennessee high court reverses Judd death investigation order

By TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee's high court on Thursday vacated a ruling that required police to publicly release their investigation of country singer Naomi Judd's death.

The state Supreme Court did not rule on whether the records can be released, but sent the case back to the lower court for another hearing. Judd's family filed a petition in Williamson County Chancery Court in August, saying the police records contain video and audio interviews with relatives in the immediate aftermath of Judd's death.

Releasing such details would inflict "significant trauma and irreparable harm" on the family, the petition said. It argued that the police investigative files are covered by an exemption to the state's public records law.

Williamson County Chancellor Joseph A. Woodruff ruled against the Judd family on Aug. 31, denying their request for an injunction to keep the records private while they pursue their legal case. The records "do not appear to fall within any recognized exception to the Public Records Act," Woodruff found.

In addition, the chancellor

ruled that specific records in the police file are public records, including body camera footage taken inside of Judd's home. But the Tennessee Supreme Court took issue with that part of the chancellor's order. The high court said on Thursday that Woodruff should not have ruled on which specific records are public and which are private without a full hearing on the issue.

The court vacated Woodruff's earlier ruling and sent the case back to the Chancery Court for a new hearing.

Judd died on April 30 at her home in Tennessee at the

age of 76. Her daughter Ashley has previously said that her mother killed her-

self, and the family said she was lost to "the disease of mental illness." □



Naomi Judd poses at the Hero Dog Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., Oct. 6, 2012.

Associated Press

Complete games disappearing in baseball's Analytics Age

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— Jim Palmer thought back to 1971, when Baltimore Orioles pitching coach George Bamberger kept scrawling marks on the underside of his cap's brim.

"George, what is that?" the Hall of Fame pitcher recalled asking. "He said, 'I have a complete game clause. If you guys get 50 or more complete games, I get a \$5,000 raise.'"

Palmer learned later that Bamberger was fibbing and trying to push his pitchers. Dave McNally, Mike Cuellar, Pat Dobson and Palmer combined for 70 complete games that year, and each reached 20 wins. This year, the entire major leagues have logged just 35 complete games, down from 50 last season, 104 in 2015 and 622 in 1988.

Bullpens reign supreme in the Analytics Age. Starters increasingly are blocked from facing the batting order for a third time.

Palmer had 25 complete games in 1975, including 10 shutouts, and Catfish Hunter had 30 for the Yankees that year.

Just three active pitchers have 25 career complete games: Clayton Kershaw (25), Justin Verlander (26) and Adam Wainwright (28). Miami's Sandy Alcantara leads the major leagues



Miami Marlins starting pitcher Sandy Alcantara throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals, Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022, in Miami.

Associated Press

with six this season.

"The ninth inning is a tricky inning to get as a starter," said the Mets' Max Scherzer, who has 12 complete games in his career. "If you're winning the game, typically the closer's better than you are in your ninth inning. As a starter to go back out there for the ninth, you have to have the mentality that you're better than the closer in that situation. So that's a tough thing to be able to say. Second, the score's got to be about right, too. If it's a one-run game, it's tough to say you got the ball when you've got the closer. It's his job."

OPS on-base plus slugging percentage is .688 in a starter's first time through the batting order this season, .719 the second and .769 the third and later, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Pitches per start dipped from 96.93 in 2011 to 80.33 in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season before rebounding to 82.7 last year and 85.12 this season, according to Sports Info Solutions.

"Guys aren't trained they don't prepare for 120 anymore," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said, "The ramp up is just

not what it used to be. I think it is intentional by organizations. The third time through I think is certainly real, if you look at OPS with every starting pitcher."

Innings per start fell from 6.03 in 2011 to 4.78 before rising to 5.02 in 2021 and 5.22 this year.

"Having Dwight Gooden at 19 years old throw 270 innings probably wasn't a good idea, especially in a 9-1 game," said ESPN and YES broadcaster David Cone, who pitched 56 complete games in his career. "Back then, you would get made fun of if you didn't complete that

game. The whole mentality is different."

Shutouts are nearly extinct. There have been 15 this year, and no pitcher has tossed two. Bob Gibson alone pitched 13 in 1968.

As recently as 2015 there were 51 shutouts, and that was down from 146 in 1992 and 295 in 1972.

"Decreased number of innings pitched by starters has not been a positive for the game," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Starting pitchers historically have been some of our biggest stars. I think that it's important for the game that they continue to be some of our biggest stars. And I think the key to continuing that tradition is they need to pitch more."

Palmer thinks starters never have to reach down to find out what they are capable of. "If you pitched in my era, you'd go to Fenway Park with a one-run lead and you tell Earl Weaver you're a little tired, he goes, 'You think I'm taking you out of a game and bringing in Dick Drago? You're crazy!' And now you got to get (Carlton) Fisk, Yaz (Carl Yastrzemski) and (Jim) Rice out. Well, you learn about yourself now. Now, it doesn't always work, but you learn about how smart you are and can you get a guy out more than one way, your heart, your conditioning." □

Alcaraz, Nadal put Spain at 1-2 in ATP rankings for 1st time

NEW YORK (AP) — No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz and No. 2 Rafael Nadal are the first countrymen to top the ATP rankings in 22 years.

And the two players from Spain are the first men from somewhere other than the United States to sit at 1-2 since the tour introduced computerized rankings in 1973.

Alcaraz is a 19-year-old who rose to the top spot by winning the U.S. Open last month for his first Grand Slam title, becoming the youngest man ever to be No. 1.

Nadal is a 36-year-old who has spent 209 weeks atop

the rankings and owns a men's-record 22 major championships, including at the Australian Open in January and the French Open in June. He rose from No. 3 to No. 2 on Monday, swapping places with U.S. Open runner-up Casper Ruud.

The last time players from the same country held Nos. 1 and 2 in the ATP rankings was in August 2000, when Americans Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras did it.

"Proud to share this historic moment with @Rafael-Nadal, the best player of all-time," Alcaraz wrote in Spanish on Twitter.

The only other changes in the ATP top 10 on Monday came with Jannik Sinner sliding from No. 10 to No. 12.

That allowed Hubert Hurkacz to move up one spot to No. 10, and Taylor Fritz to shift one place up to a career-best No. 11.

Iga Swiatek remained at No. 1 in the WTA rankings, where she's been since replacing the retired Ash Barty there in April.

Two-time major finalist Ons Jabeur stayed at No. 2. She was followed by No. 3 Anett Kontaveit and No. 4 Paula Badosa, who swapped spots on Monday. □



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, right, greets compatriot Carlos Alcaraz after defeating him in the men's singles semifinals at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Associated Press

High-profile QBs on new teams had another rough week



Arizona Cardinals linebacker Victor Dimukeje puts pressure on Carolina Panthers quarterback Baker Mayfield during the second half of an NFL football game on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

High-profile quarterbacks on new teams had a rough week. Russell Wilson finally got Denver's offense moving, but the Broncos lost to Las Vegas 32-23.

Matt Ryan had another turnover-filled game for Indianapolis in a 24-17 home loss to Tennessee.

Carson Wentz tossed two interceptions in Washington's 25-10 loss at Dallas.

Baker Mayfield struggled again in Carolina's 26-16 home loss to Arizona. There's a long way to go in the season, but the early results are dismal. The four QBs are 5-10-1 combined. Only Wilson doesn't have a losing record at 2-2. He also had the best day among the group, posting a 124.9 passer rating and leading the Broncos to a season-high in points. The Broncos traded a slew of picks and gave Wilson a \$245 million contract extension to turn them into a Super Bowl contender. For this season, they'll be fortunate to compete for a wild-card spot in the loaded AFC. Wilson is adjusting to a new team with a rookie coach who has made several questionable decisions already. No need to second-guess Nathaniel Hackett against the Raiders. Missed opportunities and a costly fumble hurt Denver. "That third quarter, we kind of hurt ourselves," Wilson said. "That's the game, I think." Wilson and Ryan have quick turnarounds. They'll meet Thursday night when the Colts (1-2-1) visit Denver.

"What a big opportunity to respond," Wilson said. "That's what championship-type teams do. We've got to respond. We've got to battle. We've got to overcome obstacles. We've got to be battle-tested and be able to respond in a great way."

The Colts jettisoned Wentz after he threw 27 touchdowns passes and only seven interceptions last season because they lost the final two games with a playoff berth on the line. They brought in Ryan, giving coach Frank Reich his fifth starting QB in five seasons. Ryan, the 2016 NFL MVP, completed 73% of his passes for 356 yards against the Titans, but he fumbled twice, threw a pick and was sacked three times.

Ryan has nine fumbles and five interceptions in four games. "I think you've just got to protect it better," the 37-year-old Ryan said. "It's a very uncharacteristic four-game stretch for me. It's something I've got to clean up and get better at. If we can put together a clean game, I think we can be very good."

The Colts believed Ryan was the upgrade they needed to get to them to the Super Bowl. They've got a shot in the mediocre AFC South but aren't in the same league as the Chiefs and Bills.

The Commanders were happy to take Wentz from Indianapolis. They've been looking for a franchise QB for years and were hoping Wentz could reclaim the form he showed in Philadelphia his first four seasons.

But Wentz has been inconsistent. He opened the season with consecutive strong performances, throwing seven TD passes. But he has followed up with back-to-back poor games.

"Guys are hungry. Guys want to get better. I'm excited to see how we respond, how we get better, how we bounce back this week," Wentz said.

Fighting hard won't cut it. Wentz has to produce or the few Commanders fans who show up to games are going to start calling for backup Taylor Heinicke.

"I gotta be better. I gotta be more consistent," Wentz said. Expectations for Mayfield and the Panthers weren't high. He joined Carolina in July only after Cleveland agreed to pay most of his salary, and he restructured his contract. Still, there was hope he'd prove he could be the long-term solution for the Panthers. Through four games, he has a career-low 75.0 passer rating. □

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